

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00261 141525Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
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INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
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ALL OTHER CANADIAN POSTS (BY POUCH)

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUEBEC 0261

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CA
SUBJECT: VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY, SAITH DR. LAURIN

1. AS ANTICIPATED, NEW LANGUAGE BILL 101 WAS INTRODUCED
IN QUEBEC NATIONAL ASSEMBLY YESTERDAY TO REPLACE BILL 1. DESPITE
SOME 40 SIGNIFICANT AMENDMENTS, NEW BILL CONTINUES TO ADHERE
RIGIDLY TO PRINCIPLES OF "LANGUAGE CHARTER."

2. IN CLEAR VICTORY FOR LANGUAGE HARD LINERS, QUALIFICATIONS
FOR ENTRY INTO ENGLISH SCHOOLS REMAIN VIRTUALLY UNCHANGED.
CONCESSIONS WERE MADE MAINLY IN RESPONSE TO CRITICISM FROM
BUSINESS COMMUNITY, HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AND FROM "NATIVE PEOPLES."

MOST SIGNIFICANT EASEMENTS WERE GRANTED IN USE OF ENGLISH IN SUCH
AREAS AS: A) HEAD OFFICES OF FIRMS ENGAGED IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS;
B) SMALL BUSINESSES; AND C) PUNITIVE SANCTIONS IN CASES OF FRANCIFICA-

TION NON-COMPLIANCE. OBJECTIONABLE EQUATION OF FRANCOPHONE WITH
"QUEBECOIS" AND CONTROVERSIAL OVERRIDING OF QUEBEC "HUMAN
RIGHTS CHARTER" WERE ALSO DROPPED FROM LEGISLATION. AS EARLIER
ANNOUNCED, "NATIVE PEOPLES" WERE EXEMPT FROM LEGISLATION. (QUEBEC
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PAGE 02 QUEBEC 00261 141525Z

0254) COMPOSITION OF ENFORCING BODY, "LA REGIE DE LA LANGUE FRANCAISE,"

HAS BEEN BROADENED TO FIVE MEMBERS WITH PROVISION FOR APPEAL OF
ITS DECISIONS. ALSO, IN EFFORT ADD FLEXIBILITY, ENGLISH IS TO BE
ALLOWED IN ALL INSTANCES WHERE IT IS NOT SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITED.

3. COMMENT: MOST PREGNANT ASPECT OF NEW BILL IS FAILURE OF

CABINET LANGUAGE MODERATES, INCLUDING RENE LEVESQUE HIMSELF, TO ACHIEVE EASING OF HARSH RESTRICTION BARRING ENTRY TO ENGLISH LANGUAGE SCHOOLS TO CHILDREN OF PARENTS ENTERING QUEBEC IN FUTURE FROM OTHER CANADIAN PROVINCES PROVIDED AT LEAST ONE OF PARENTS DID NOT ATTEND ENGLISH PRIMARY SCHOOL IN QUEBEC. AS CLAUDE MORIN COMMENTED PRIVATELY TO ME SOME TIME AGO, SUCH ACTION WILL APPEAR VINDICTIVE TO MANY OUTSIDERS AND COULD HARM ATTEMPTS AT WORKING OUT FUTURE AMICABLE ASSOCIATION WITH ANGLOPHONE CANADA. MINISTER OF STATE FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT LAURIN APPEARS TO HAVE CARRIED DAY IN STORMY CABINET MEETINGS WITH PRESENTATION BASED ON 1971 STATISTICS PURPORTING TO PROVE ONLY THE FORMULA WHICH INCLUDES BARRING CHILDREN FROM OTHER PROVINCES WOULD RESULT IN FUTURE INCREASE IN FRENCH SCHOOL ENROLLMENTS. ON THIS BASIS HARD LINERS ALLEGEDLY REFUSED ACCEPT PATENTLY VALID PRESUMPTION THAT FUTURE FLOW OF ANGLOPHONES INTO QUEBEC IS ALMOST CERTAIN TO DIMINISH SIGNIFICANTLY. LEVESQUE WAS APPARENTLY FORCED ACCEPT UNFORGIVING FORMULA OR RISK RESIGNATIONS FROM CABINET WHICH COULD HAVE BROUGHT DOWN GOVERNMENT AND SPLIT PQ. EVIDENTLY, HE DECIDED COMPROMISE WAS PRUDENT WHILE EXTRACTING AS MANY CONCESSIONS AS POSSIBLE ON OTHER RELATIVELY MINOR AS WELL AS LESS EMOTIVE ASPECTS OF BILL. HARD TO ASSESS AT THIS POINT FUTURE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FAILURE OF PM TO IMPOSE HIS WILL ON CABINET COLLEAGUES. HOWEVER, IT MAKES CLEAR TO ALL THAT, WHILE HE MAY BE "PRIMUS INTER PARES," HE DOES NOT ENJOY CAESAREAN POWERS.

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PAGE 03 QUEBEC 00261 141525Z

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